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MEMORANDUM

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

May 5, 1980

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INFORMATION

MEMORANDUM FOR: ZBIGNIEW BRZEZINSKI  
FROM: THOMAS THORNTON  
SUBJECT: Your Meeting with Martinez de Hoz (C)

Attached at Tab A is State's briefing memo for your meeting; it won't tell you much you don't know already. I have sidelined the more interesting parts in case you are short on time. Tabs A and C are attached in draft form; the finished version won't come from State until late today (Monday). (U)

The purpose of your meeting is twofold:

- To show our continuing concern in rebuilding ties with Argentina and,
- by implication, to leave Martinez with the idea that the ball is now in their court; we would like to see some reciprocity for the advances we have made to them. (Don't say this directly; he will come up with trivia to counter the argument.) (S)

The two issues that you should hit are their growing relationship with the Soviet Union (See Tab B for a summary), and, within that context, the grain issue (See Tab C for Tim Deal's comments and a summary). (C)

On the Soviet relationship, give Martinez your patented overview of what the Soviets are doing in the world; point out to him that we are actively opposing them (grain embargo, Olympics, security framework); this is at considerable cost to us; we shouldn't have to bear this cost alone (thereby turning one of his points against him); and that Argentina, as a country of Western heritage, values, etc., governed by an anti-Communist regime, should share the forefront of the action. (S)

Concerning grain, avoid specifics which will be dealt with by others, but point out the great symbolic as well as the material importance of grain to the campaign against Soviet aggression in Afghanistan. (C)

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Review on May 5, 1986

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Point out to Martinez that our relations with Argentina have been troubled but the situation is easing. Frankly, some human rights issues remain but we recognize the progress that has been made and want to be conciliatory. In particular, we hope that a solution to the "disappeared persons" can be found. (C)

(If Martinez complains about the statements and activities of Patt Derian and Gerry Shestak, don't get drawn in. There is probably blame on both sides. Say that you will look into it.) (C)

Emphasize to Martinez that we have taken the initiative in sending Goodpaster, Smith and Hodges. We hope that we are on the threshold of a new stage in our relationship, based on equality, mutual benefit and mutual responsibility. There is opposition to this in the United States and it is imperative that we can show progress to our public. It would be particularly unfortunate if Americans were to get the idea that Argentina is turning to the Soviets rather than us. (C)

Argentina must of course make its own choices. Given the tradition of Argentina, the strategic choice will of course be for the West (freedom, Christianity, etc.). Many small tactical choices could, however, prejudice the strategic choice. That would be in the interest of neither side. (S)

Martinez may raise the possibility of Argentina sending a high-level emissary here to reciprocate Goodpaster. Such an emissary would of course have to see the President and you might want to be negative on those grounds. If you want to give some encouragement to the idea, fine, but make the point that such a visit would be most fruitful if there were a favorable context of past actions or anticipated results. (C)

Overall, don't let Martinez take the initiative (e.g. on human rights). Keep him on the defensive and keep the focus on the Soviet angle. (C)

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